

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7171

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG, XF, US

SUBJ: WASHINGTON-BASED ISRAELI PRESS ON

INTERIM SETTLEMENT ISSUES

1. SUMMARY. UNCERTAINTY REGARDING PROSPECTS FOR INTERIM GOE/GOI SETTLEMENT CONTINUES TO DOMINATE REPORTS BY WASHINGTON-BASED ISRAELI REPORTERS. STORIES DEAL WITH ELEMENTS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND MENTION POSSIBLE OBSTACLES TO REACHING AN AGREEMENT. EVENING NEWSPAPERS FRONTPAGE EXCERPTS FROM SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER'S TV INTERVIEW OF JUNE 19. END SUMMARY.

2. HAARETZ (MARGALIT) REPORTS THAT " US SECRETARY KISSINGER IS PRESSING FOR A CONCLUSION OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI INTERIM AGREEMENT BEFORE JULY 22. THE SOVIETS ARE PRESSING THE AMERICANS TO HOLD THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE ON JULY 22 AND KISSINGER UNCLASSIFIED

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THINKS THAT UNTIL THIS DATE MOSCOW WILL NOT DISTURB

HIS DIPLOMATIC MOVES...IN WASHINGTON OPINIONS DIFFER REGARDING THE CHANCES OF AN AGREEMENT. SOURCES SAY THAT THERE IS 'A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT' AND 'A BASIC UNDERSTANDING' BETWEEN PM RABIN AND THE US BUT DOUBTS EXIST REGARDING THE EGYPTIAN POSITION..." MARGALIT MENTIONS THE NEW LINE OF DEFENSE AS "THE MOST COMPLICATED PROBLEM IN THE TALKS..." ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN WASHINGTON, HE WRITES, "KISSINGER IS PREPARING A FORMULA ACCORDING TO WHICH SADAT WOULD BE ABLE TO CLAIM THAT HE RECEIVED ALL THE PASSES WHILE RABIN WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO EXPLAIN THE IDF'S DEFENSE WILL CONTINUE "TO LEAN" ON THE PASSES. REGARDING THE DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT, THERE IS AN UNDERSTANDING THAT EGYPT WILL AGREE TO A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS-- PUBLICLY TO 18 MONTHS ONLY, BUT PREPARED TO DOUBLE THIS PERIOD OF TIME..."

3. DAVAR (BARNEA) HEADLINE STORY REPORTS THAT "FOLLOWING TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR EILTS...AMERICAN OFFICIALS FEAR THAT THE QUESTION OF THE CONTINUATION OF CONTROL OF SURVEILLANCE POSITIONS IN THE PASSES MAY FRUSTRATE THE NEGOTIATIONS...IN HIS TALKS RABIN CLARIFIED THAT ISRAEL INSISTS THAT ISRAELI UNITS REMAIN IN UM-HASHIVA AND THE GIDI AND OPERATE ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE DEVICES... ISRAEL WANTS THE DEFENSE LINE TO BE LOCATED INSIDE THE PASSES AND (PROVISION MADE FOR) MAINTENANCE OF TERRITORIAL CONTINUITY FROM THE SURVEILLANCE STATIONS TO ISRAELI TERRITORY. OTHER POSSIBILITIES ARE ALSO BEING EXAMINED BY STATE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING THOSE THAT THE SURVEILLANCE POSITIONS BE LOCATED INSIDE UN TERRITORY OR AS ENCLAVES INSIDE EGYPTIAN TERRITORY. THE MAIN PROBLEM WHICH DISTURBS THE EGYPTIANS IS, PROBABLY, THE CREATION OF A PRECEDENT IF THEY AGREE THAT ISRAEL SHOULD RETAIN SURVEILLANCE POSITIONS. THE EGYPTIANS FEAR THAT ISRAEL WILL DEMAND, ON THE BASIS OF THIS PRECEDENT, SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS IN SHAREM EL SHEIKH AND OTHER PLACES. THE EGYPTIANS ALSO CLAIM THAT ISRAEL EXAGGERATES THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SURVEILLANCE STATIONS..." BARNEA ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT "ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS THINK THAT THERE IS A GREAT CHANCE TO ACHIEVE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SIDES ON THIS QUESTION IF THE PROBLEM IS UNCLASSIFIED

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DISCUSSED FROM ITS TECHNICAL SIDE AND DOES NOT BECOME AN ISSUE OF POLITICAL PRESTIGE..."

4. JERUSALEM POST AND AL-HAMISHMAR (BLITZER) ALSO REPORT THAT ISRAELI INSISTENCE ON MAINTAINING SURVEILLANCE STATIONS NEAR THE SINAI MOUNTAIN PASSES MAY BE REJECTED BY EGYPT "OUT OF FEAR THAT IT COULD SET AN UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT..." BLITZER ADDS THAT "THIS PROPOSAL

NEVERTHELESS, IS EXPECTED TO BE PRESENTED TO EGYPTIAN
PRESIDENT SADAT FOR CONSIDERATION NEXT WEEK BY US
AMBASSADOR EILTS..."

5. WHILE MOST NEWSPAPERS MENTION A 3 YEAR PERIOD AS
THE EXPECTED DURATION OF THE NEXT INTERIM SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT, YEDIOT (ZIMUKI AND KIVITI) WRITES THAT
" THE AMERICANS NOW THINK THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO
GET AN EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT FOR 4 YEAR PERIOD." IT
ALSO MENTIONS EGYPTIAN DEMAND FOR FULL CONTROL OF THE
PASSES AND EGYPTIAN OPPOSITION TO ISRAELI SURVEILLANCE
STATIONS ON THE PASSES PEAKS AS THE MAIN OBSTACLES.
THE ISRAELI DEMAND FOR A COMPLETE SEPARATION BETWEEN
AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH EGYPT AND POSSIBLE NEGOTIA-
TIONS WITH SYRIA IS ANOTHER DIFFICULTY, ACCORDING TO
YEDIOT.

6. MAARIV (SEGEV) HEADLINE STORY REPORTS TV INTERVIEW
WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER (JUNE 19) AND HIGHLIGHTS
SECRETARY'S REMARKS REACTING TO LABOR PARTY GS'S
STATEMENT THAT GOLAN HEIGHTS AND GAZA STRIP WILL BE
INCLUDED IN ISRAEL'S FUTURE BORDERS. SEGEV REPORTS
THAT " AMERICAN OFFICIALS TRIED YESTERDAY TO MINIMIZE
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF LABOR PARTY GS'S STATEMENT, BUT IN
PRIVATE TALKS THEY EXPRESSED EMBARRASSMENT AT THE TIMING
OF THE STATEMENT. THEY SAY THAT PM RABIN, IN HIS TALKS
IN THE US, HAS SPOKEN IN SIMILAR TERMS...ISRAEL'S
REFUSAL TO DESCEND FROM THE GOLAN HEIGHTS EVEN WITHIN
THE FRAMEWORK OF A PEACE AGREEMENT WAS NOT KEPT A
SECRET ..HOWEVER,...IT WAS AN ERROR OF JUDGMENT TO MAKE
THE STATEMENT ON THE DAY THAT THE SYRIAN PM WAS DUE IN
WASHINGTON..."

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